

Means and Commerce Committees. It does not create huge new tax breaks which will cost far more in out-years than they raise in the near term. It concentrates its relief on those who have been careful, cost-conscious providers and does not throw out money at the agencies which have been abusing Medicare by providing excessive and often questionable visits.

Our bill is identical (except for the pay-for) to the bipartisan bill which has been developed by the Senate Finance Committee, and which may pass the Senate at any moment. Our pay-for simply changes the limits on the Medicare Medical Savings Account demonstration project, lowering the number of participants in the early start-up years and raising them in the out-years and extending the life of the demo. Very few people are likely to participate in this program in the early years, yet CBO charges us for the cost of a full-blown program. By starting more realistically, we will not hurt the program, but can be scored for budget savings.

Attached is a description of the formula changes our bill makes.

This is a small, do-able bill in the last hours of the 105th Congress. It does not waste money on the agencies who have created so much of the fraud, waste, and abuse problem in the home health sector. It is a responsible pay-for. It is a bill that can quickly and easily be conferenced with the Senate.

We urge other Members to join us in supporting this approach.

#### SUMMARY OF FORMULA CHANGES

Reduces state and regional differences for "old" agency payments; brings down the per beneficiary limits for the highest cost "old" agencies; raises the per beneficiary limits for the lower cost "old" agencies and eliminates current 2% discount on per beneficiary limits applicable to new agencies. Raises the separate average cost per visit limits for all agencies.

CBO: budget neutral (through FY 2008).

#### *Per Beneficiary Limits*

1. "Old" agencies: payment is 50% BBA policy +50% (50% national mean +50% regional mean);

2. "New" agencies: payments are increased by 2% to equal 100% of the national median (about \$3,450), (which continues to be regionally adjusted for wages); and

#### *Per Visit Limits*

3. Increase the per visit limits from 105% to 110%.

4. Delays for 1 year the 15% across-the-board cuts currently scheduled to go into effect on October 1, 1999.

CBO: Cost is \$1 billion over 5 years.

HONORING RICHARD L. OTTINGER

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding leader, good friend, and beloved former member of this House, Dick Ottinger.

Dick represented Westchester County in the United States House of Representatives from 1965 to 1971, and again from 1975 to 1985. Throughout his service in the Congress, Dick was a model of integrity and energy. He

fought for the interests of working families and consumers, for the underprivileged and for seniors—always guided by a powerful sense of justice and idealism.

But Dick's greatest passion has always been the environment. He came to Congress at a time when few in Washington devoted sufficient attention to the cleanliness of our air and water, to the depletion of fossil fuels, or to the long-term relationship between economic growth and sound environmental stewardship. He left Washington with these priorities enjoying wide acceptance among lawmakers and the public alike. Without a doubt, Dick's contribution to the environmental cause was wide and deep—and today his legacy is as great as the American outdoors.

Mr. Speaker, Dick's accomplishments are not limited to the arena of elected office. Public service is at the very heart of Dick Ottinger's character, an instinct revealed in every season of his life. He was one of the founding members of the Peace Corps, a distinguished attorney, an author of numerous books and articles, and today the Dean of the Pace University School of Law as well as the Co-Director of Pace's prestigious Center for Environmental legal Studies.

For his extraordinary body of work, Dick Ottinger has been honored many times over. But perhaps the greatest tribute is the lasting affection and admiration of the men and women whom Dick so ably represented and about whom he continues to care so deeply.

I am pleased to recognize Dick Ottinger, together with his wife June, and to express my thanks to an outstanding role model and wonderful human being.

#### COMMENDING THE INCORPORATION OF THE SUABE NA TASI FOUNDATION ON GUAM

**HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent formation of a particular non-profit corporation known as the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. On August 20, 1998, this foundation was officially incorporated on Guam to increase public awareness about the waters surrounding our beautiful island and to raise the necessary funding to study and implement measures to sustain our vibrant economy while protecting our precious ocean resources.

As many of my colleagues know, Guam's coral reefs as home to the most diverse fish populations in the world. Recent increased development have heightened the demand placed on our near-shore waters and, as a result, our reefs and ocean waters have not only been threatened but are becoming adversely impacted. Tumon Bay in particular, Guam's most developed shoreline, has produced signs of environmental stress and human activity is the leading apparent cause. Recent studies also point to an increase in algae growth and beach sands are turning from a pure white to an abused gray that gives way to erosion as each day passes.

In response to these growing signs of rapid development, various local governments as well as GovGuam have attempted to take con-

structive action to restore our environment and free it from intrusive and negative impact in the future. However, there is a single impediment standing in the way of needed progress and that is a tremendous lack of funds. The Suabe Na Tasi Foundation has stepped up to act as the engine to fund important local initiatives to save our environment and help Tumon Bay.

The people of Guam are especially grateful to Telo Taitague, a local and talented vocalist who has committed to release a compact disc to facilitate a public awareness campaign and offered all the proceeds in support of the Foundation's efforts. Telo, is a true civic leader on Guam as she has devoted her singing talent to aid not only the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation but in the past helped with the Toys for Tots campaign, Rest Homes in North Carolina, the Hawaiian Save the Waters campaign, Special Olympics, and Miss Guam Universe. The Foundation has also completed plans to host a benefit concert with Telo and other Guam artists and musicians to release money for the restoration of Tumon Bay.

Mr. Speaker, it is also worthwhile to commend the work of several individuals, who with their determination and energy, worked to incorporate the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. Mr. Paul Packbier, an advocate for protecting the environment who has over twelve years of experience in environmental consulting and chairman of the Foundation, is to be praised for his efforts in organizing the foundation as well as Mr. Sinforoso M. Tolentino, a highly respected lawyer and friend of the business community on Guam. Mrs. Beth S. Lizama, currently the Vice President of Marinas Credit Bureau and a Business Development officer for Mari-Net, also deserves recognition and are gratitude for her commitment to the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. Without these three individuals, the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation would not have been incorporated and Tumon Bay would still be in dire need of our attention and care.

The Suabe Na Tasi Foundation is the first organization of its kind, and we on Guam eagerly await its benefits and look forward to proudly preserving our environmental resources. Let us continue as an island community to share our talents and energy for the betterment of Guam. Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the contributors and founders of the Suabe Na Tasi Foundation. May your organization and dedication to protecting our environment serve as a model for other communities across the United States to emulate.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COMMANDER JAMES E. BURD

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest congratulations to Commander James E. Burd, the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Technical Services Facility, on his retirement.

Commander Burd was born in Harrisburg and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1975 he graduated from the United States Naval Academy and he obtained of his pilot wings a year later.